

(translation)

Column V      Comment defined in the PCT rule 2.1 (a)(i)  
concerning Novelty, Inventive step or Industrial Utilities, and  
Document and Explanation supporting it

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2.      Document and Explanation

The invention of claims 1 to 5 has novelty and an inventive  
step.

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(Document 1: JP 2003-12796 A (Mitsubishi Gas Chemical  
Company, Inc.), 2003. 01. 15

Document 1 cited in International search report discloses  
a polyphenylene oligomer obtained by oxidation polymerization  
and represented by the formula (1) (claims), wherein a copper  
salt and an amine are used as catalysts (paragraph No. [0011]).

According to a comparison of the invention of claim 1 of  
the present application and the invention disclosed in Document  
1, the amine to be used is specified in the former invention  
but the amine to be used is not specified in the latter invention.  
These inventions are different from each other in this respect.  
The invention of the present application agrees with the  
invention of Document 1 in other respects.

According to studies on the above difference, Document  
1 discloses the amine specified in claim 1 of the present  
application as an example in paragraph No. [0011]. However,  
di-n-butylamine, which is used in Comparative Examples in the  
present application, is used in Examples of Document 1. Further,  
the present invention has the effect of obtaining an oligomer  
having no amine adduct owing to the use of the specific amine.  
Therefore, it is recognized that the present invention has  
novelty and an inventive step.

(translation)

Column VIII      Opinion on International application

Opinions concerning the clearness of claims, specification and drawings  
5 or sufficient support based on the specification for claims are as follows.

In Comparative Example 4 of the specification, the  
maturation time of oligomer was 120 minutes and, as a result  
thereof, Mw was 3500. However, the above Mw is smaller than that  
10 of polyphenylene ether oligomer, represented by the formula (1),  
of the invention of claim 1 wherein  $n = m = 25$ . It is recognized  
that Comparative Example 4 is included in the present invention.  
Therefore, the effect of the invention is not clear.